REMARKS

Claims 3-6, 8, and 10-19 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of claim 1 and intervening claim 2. Claims 1, 2, 7, and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3-6, 8, and 10 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as set forth below, as well as to make minor editorial changes in conformance with U.S. Patent practice. Claims 11-19 are added to provide more varied protection for the present invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected on prior art grounds. Particularly, claims 1-3 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,658,167), and claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I.   THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention is directed to an image registration system.

In an illustrative, non-limiting embodiment of the present invention as defined by

independent claim 3, an image registration system including a first client device and a second client device which can communicate with a server. The first client device includes first image data transmission means for transmitting to the server image data to be registered. The server includes image data receiving means for receiving the image data transmitted from the first image data transmission means in the first client device, image data generation means for generating image data representing an image which can be outputted to the second client device and representing the same image as an image represented by the image data received by the image data receiving means and including a different form of representation therefrom, and image data storage means for storing the image data generated by the image data generation means so as to be accessible from the second client device. The second client device includes request data transmission means for transmitting to the server request data representing a request to transmit the image data stored in the image data storage means. The server further includes request data receiving means for receiving the request data transmitted from the request data transmission means in the second client device, image data retrieval means responsive to the request data received by the request data receiving means for finding from the image data storage means the image data suitable for image output to the second client device which has transmitted the request data out of the image data stored in the image data storage means in the server, and second image data transmission means for transmitting to the second client device the image data found by the image data retrieval means.

In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention as defined by independent claim 8, an image transmission server which can communicate with a client device, includes image data generation means for generating image data representing an image which can be outputted to the client device and representing the same image as an image represented by fed

image data and including a different form of representation therefrom, image data storage

means for storing the image data generated by the image data generation means so as to be

accessible from the client device, <u>request data receiving means for receiving request data</u>

<u>representing a request to transmit the image data stored in the storage means</u>, <u>image data</u>

<u>retrieval means responsive to the request data received by the request data receiving means</u>

<u>for finding from the storage means the image data suitable for image output to the client</u>

<u>device which has transmitted the request data out of the image data stored in the storage</u>

<u>means in the server</u>, and image data transmission means for transmitting to the client device

the image data found by the image data retrieval means.

In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention as defined by independent

claim 10, in <u>an image transmission server</u> which can communicate with a client device, an

image transmitting method including <u>generating image data representing an image which can</u>

<u>be outputted to the client device</u> and representing the same image as an image represented by

fed image data and including a different form of representation, storing the generated image

data so as to be accessible from the client device, <u>receiving request data representing a request</u>

<u>to transmit the stored image data</u>, <u>finding the image data suitable for image output to the</u>

<u>client device which has transmitted the request data out of the stored image data in response</u>

<u>to the receiving request data</u>, and transmitting to the client device the found image data.

In conventional systems, <u>since the processing for reducing the image data is started</u>

<u>when the client computer accesses the image server</u>, <u>time is required</u> until the transmission of

the reduced image data to the client computer from the image server is started. Thus, the

conventional systems <u>take a relatively long time until an image is displayed</u> on the display

device in the client computer. That is, even if the image server is accessed, <u>the image</u>

generally cannot be quickly displayed (e.g., see specification at page 2, lines 16-23).

The claimed invention, on the other hand, the image data suitable for the output of the output device in the second client device <u>can be immediately transmitted</u> to the second client device. Thus, an image represented by the image data <u>can be outputted quickly</u> from the output device in the second client device (e.g., see specification at page 4, lines 19-23).

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 2 (which is incorporated in rewritten claim 3) is amended to replace "by" with "to", as suggested by the Examiner, thereby overcoming this rejection.

Claims 4, 8, and 10 similarly are amended to replace "by" with "to", thereby defining more clearly the features of these claims.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

III. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee. Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee.

Applicant respectfully submits, however, that there are elements of the claimed invention which are neither disclosed nor suggested by Lee.

Independent claim 3 recites, *inter alia*, an image registration system comprising a

first client device and a second client device which can communicate with a server,

wherein the server comprises:

> image data generation means for generating image data
> representing an image which can be outputted to the second
> client device and representing the same image as an image
> represented by the image data received by said image data
> receiving means and including a different form of representation
> therefrom; and
> image data storage means for storing the image data
> generated by said image data generation means so as to be
> accessible from the second client device, ...

> wherein the server further comprises:
> request data receiving means for receiving the request data
> transmitted from the request data transmission means in the
> second client device;
> image data retrieval means responsive to the request data
> received by said request data receiving means for finding from
> the image data storage means the image data suitable for image
> output to the second client device which has transmitted said
> request data out of the image data stored in the image data
> storage means in the server; and
> second image data transmission means for transmitting to the
> second client device the image data found by said image data
> retrieval means (emphasis added).

The Examiner alleges that Figure 2, element 210, of Lee discloses the claimed

"request data receiving means for receiving the request data transmitted from the request

data transmission means in the second client device" and "image data retrieval means

responsive to the request data received by said request data receiving means for finding

from the image data storage means the image data suitable for image output to the second

client device which has transmitted said request data out of the image data stored in the

image data storage means in the server", as claimed in claim 3 (emphasis added).

However, Applicant respectfully submit that Lee neither discloses nor suggests these

features of the claimed invention, for several reasons.

For example, Lee specifically states, in element 210 of Figure 2:

> TRANSMIT INFORMATION RELATED TO THE INTENDED
> USE OF DATA IN A CLIENT APPLICATION FROM THE
> CLIENT COMPUTER TO THE SERVER COMPUTER.

Further, Lee states, in elements 220 and 230 of Figure 2:

> <u>BASED ON THE TRANSMITTED INFORMATION,</u>
> <u>MODIFYING DATA</u> TO OPTIMIZE DATA FOR ITS
> INTENDED USE OF THE CLIENT APPLICATION, and
> <u>TRANSMIT MODIFIED DATA</u> TO CLIENT APPLICATION
> (emphasis added).

That is, Lee discloses that the modified data for its intended use of the client

application <u>is generated</u> by the server computer <u>based on the information which is transmitted</u>

<u>from the client computer</u>.

In other words, the <u>processing for modifying data is performed</u> in the server computer

<u>each time the access is made</u> by the client computer in Lee (e.g., see also Lee at column 3,

lines 34-37).

On the other hand, in the claimed invention, the image data suitable for the output of

the output device in the (second) client device is <u>not</u> generated <u>each time</u> the receiving request

data is made, but instead, <u>previously is generated in the image transmission server</u>.

That is, in the claimed invention, the image transmission server finds <u>the previously</u>

<u>generated image data suitable for the output of the output device</u> in the client device in

response to receiving the request data from the second client device.

Thus, in the claimed invention, <u>the image data can be immediately transmitted to the</u>

<u>second client device from the server</u>, since the <u>image data suitable for the output</u> of the output

device in the client device <u>previously is generated and stored</u> (e.g., see specification at page 4, lines 19-23).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Lee does <u>not</u> disclose or suggest all of the novel and unobvious features of the claimed invention, including "<u>request data receiving means</u> for receiving the request data transmitted from the request data transmission means in the second client device" and "<u>image data retrieval means</u> responsive to the request data received by said request data receiving means <u>for finding from the image data storage means the image data suitable for image output to the second client device</u> which has transmitted said request data out of the image data stored in the image data storage means in the server", as claimed in independent claim 3 (emphasis added).

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that Lee does not provide, or for that matter even contemplate, the advantages of the claimed invention.

Thus, since there are elements of the claimed invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Lee, the Examiner respectfully is requested to withdraw this rejection of independent claim 3.

Also, independent claims 8 and 10 disclose somewhat similar features as independent claim 3. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 10 also are patentable over Lee for somewhat similar reasons as those set forth above.

For example, independent claim 8 recites, *inter alia*:

> <u>image data generation means</u> for generating image data <u>representing an image which can be outputted to the client device</u> and representing the same image as an image represented by fed image data and including a different form of

> representation therefrom;
>   image data storage means for storing the image data
> generated by said image data generation means so as to be
> accessible from the client device;
>   request data receiving means for receiving request data
> representing a request to transmit the image data stored in said
> storage means;
>   image data retrieval means responsive to the request data
> received by said request data receiving means for finding from
> the storage means the image data suitable for image output to
> the client device which has transmitted the request data out of
> the image data stored in the storage means in the server; and
>   image data transmission means for transmitting to the client
> device the image data found by said image data retrieval means
> (emphasis added).

That is, for somewhat similar reasons as those set forth above, Applicant respectfully

submits that Lee neither discloses nor suggests at least "request data receiving means for

receiving request data representing a request to transmit the image data stored in said

storage means" and "image data retrieval means responsive to the request data received by

said request data receiving means for finding from the storage means the image data

suitable for image output to the client device which has transmitted the request data out of

the image data stored in the storage means in the server", as claimed in independent claim

8 (emphasis added).

On the other hand, independent claim 10 recites, *inter alia*:

> generating image data representing an image which can be
> outputted to the client device and representing the same image
> as an image represented by fed image data and including a
> different form of representation;
>   storing the generated image data so as to be accessible from
> the client device;
>   receiving request data representing a request to transmit the
> stored image data;
>   finding the image data suitable for image output to the client

> device which has transmitted the request data out of the stored
> image data in response to the receiving request data; and
>   transmitting to the client device the found image data
> (emphasis added).

That is, for somewhat similar reasons as those set forth above, Applicant respectfully

submits that Lee neither discloses nor suggests at least "receiving request data representing

a request to transmit the stored image data" and "finding the image data suitable for image

output to the client device which has transmitted the request data out of the stored image

data in response to the receiving request data" as recited in independent claim 10

(emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 4-6 also are patentable over Lee

at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 3, as well as for the additional features

recited therein.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Lee neither discloses

nor suggests all of the features claims 3-6, 8, and 10, and therefore, the Examiner respectfully

is requested to withdraw this rejection and to permit these claims to pass to immediate

allowance.

IV.   NEW CLAIMS

New claims 11-19 have been added to provide more varied protection for the present

invention as described in the original specification and drawings.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11-19 are patentable by virtue of their

dependency, as well as for the additional features recited therein, and therefore, respectfully

requests allowance of the same.

V.   FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 3-6, 8, and 10-19, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a <u>telephonic or personal interview</u>.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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